[7th December 1954

Supervision of the work of panchayat boards by Panchayat Officers.

* 118 *Q.*—Sri M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Panchayat Officers supervise the work carried out by the panchayat boards in each village and submit their reports to the higher authorities for further improvements in the villages?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I will take five more minutes and finish the rest of the questions."

Rate of surcharge on electricity levied on consumers.

* 119 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the
12 noon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government are collecting an additional tax of 20 per cent of war time surcharge from the consumers of electricity in the State?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The rate of surcharge on electricity levied on all consumers served by the Electricity Department direct (other than distributing licensees receiving bulk supply from this Department) is 20 per cent. The surcharge is to meet the increased cost of production of electricity and is not a ' tax '."

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY :—" யுத்தம் முடிந்து 8 வருஷமாகியும்கூட அதிகப்படியாக விதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற சர் சார்ஜை இந்த சர்க்கார் இன்னும் என் குறைக்கவில்லை ? அப்படி எப்போது குறைப்பார்கள் ? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" No, Sir. There is no prospect of reducing the surcharge, because the conditions which prompted the levy of this surcharge during war time continue to exist now, although the war has ended."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is the levy of this surcharge going to be a permanent feature or only a temporary measure and if it is going to be a permanent measure, is it the policy of the Government to have this 20 per cent surcharge permanently? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" No, Sir. This is levied only to meet the extra cost of production and other things. This will have to continue for some years, but it is not the intention of the Government to continue it beyond the necessary period."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" If this levy of 20 per cent surcharge is to meet the extra expenditure incurred by Government in giving installation, will the Government consider the desirability